

Big Impact on Wildlife by doing the Little Things

Head and shoulders
Photo of DC or
Soil Conservationist
here

By _____,
District Conservationist, Natural
Resources Conservation Service,
_____ County.

Sometimes it's the little things you do in life that count. That can be the case with good fish and wildlife habitat.

Everything you do, or don't do, on your land has an effect on the wildlife you share it with and the fish in the streams and rivers.

Just letting plants grow taller, rather than clipping close to the ground, gives more cover for wildlife. Or letting a few weedy plants grow results in more insects for young birds.

If you think about leaving food or cover for wildlife and fish as you manage your land, you're on your way to doing the little things that can add up to having a major impact. Here are some suggestions along the way:

Grass and hay fields. Leave streamsides, ditchbanks, roadsides, grassed waterways, and other odd areas undisturbed or wait until after the nesting season to mow.

Add flushbars to mowing equipment. Mow hayfields from the center to the outside, giving wildlife a chance to escape to field edges.

Crop fields. Use no-till or conservation tillage to provide cover and food for wildlife in winter.

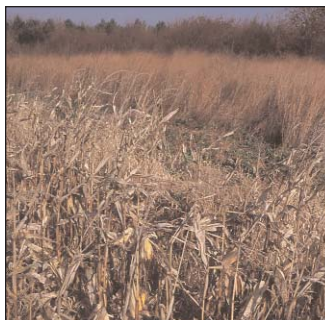
Flood rice crop residue during the winter for waterfowl habitat and shorebirds while allowing stubble breakdown.

Leave a few rows of standing crop along field edges to provide wildlife food. Maximize the like-

ly survival of pheasants, quail and other birds by leaving these rows next to large tracts of grasses, trees or other habitat.

Smart pest control. Use integrated pest management practices to minimize fish and wildlife exposure to pesticides and encourage beneficial insects, bats, raptors and other species to help in reducing crop pests.

Maximize odd areas. Make full use of non-farmed areas by establishing habitat used by the wildlife you want to see on your farm. Use native grasses as well as forbs and legumes. Lightly disc a portion of your grasses early in the year-- new growth of annual forbs will encourage insects and produce seeds for pheasants, quail and other wildlife. Plant native trees and shrubs to produce fruits and nuts. Leave dead trees standing in woodlots to provide nesting and foraging sites for woodpeckers and other cavity nesting wildlife. Put up bird houses, bat boxes, and other artificial nesting structures. For more information, stop at our office at (Number) (Street) in (city), or visit the NRCS Wildlife Habitat Management Institute's website at www.whmi.nrcs.usda.gov or the NRCS home web site at www.nrcs.usda.gov



Leaving a few rows of grain standing in a crop field next to good cover is a little thing you can do to help wildlife through a winter.

Wildlife

Ways Did you know....



The great horned owl has a wingspan of 4 feet, and regularly includes skunks in its diet. Females are usually larger than males.